

Suspended CIA Operative Insists That If He Is Judged It Be in Open

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"If I'm going to be judged, I want it to be in the open," suspended CIA operative Hans V. Tofte declared yesterday, explaining his interest in airing the case the hush-hush agency is trying to make against him.

He spoke to a reporter just after a CIA board convened to review, secretly, the charge that he broke security by taking classified documents home.

At the hearing Tofte turned the tables, he reported, and asked whether Agency director Richard M. Helms would "answer yes or no in person and in public" if the Agency had stopped entering private U.S. homes "illegally, minus a warrant and without due process of law."

By Chance, Agency Says

The hearing arose from Tofte's complaint that the CIA just so entered his home last month and confiscated his papers. The Agency said it was all by chance. Some \$20,000 in jewelry was reported missing the next day.

"All of a sudden the meeting was over," Tofte continued

yesterday, "in six minutes."

A CIA spokesman later declined comment.

"I won't be railroaded," the 59-year-old Tofte said. "In 1944 I was up for court-martial on 13 counts—the Yugoslav hitting—but I got the Legion of Merit. In 1956, after Moscow got hysterical, I was up on 11 counts in the agency—embezzlement, murder; I was investigated for eight months and couldn't speak in my own defense. In 1960, after a hot and heavy operation, I was on the carpet again."

To Real Bosses

"Now my bosses won't see me, so I decided I'll go to my real bosses, the American people. I'm not just a Government servant, you know, but an American citizen. I've tried the regular way too many times, the official way, and failed. So now, to hell with the house rules."

The papers taken from his home, Tofte wrote in a private letter that surfaced yesterday, "represent years of study aimed at perfecting a plan that would revolutionize the entire CIA and make it do the work it is supposed to do—better, more professionally and with-

out a colossal waste in regard to money and human tragedy."

He wrote that his "meticulous diaries and private records" provided inside knowledge on the roles of Agency officials in Vietnam, the Bay of Pigs and the Dominican Republic.

Amplifies Remarks

Tofte amplified these remarks yesterday. He said that been "working on a formula" CIA official Frank G. Wisner, who died last October, he had been "workig on a formula for nine years, almost like a scientist working in a laboratory." It was, he said, a "frank and constructive" analysis of CIA operations: "I called a spade a spade."

Indignantly Tofte denied suggestions—which arose from his earlier claims to possess "embarrassing" material—that he intended to release it if his case did not end to his satisfaction.

"I'm fed up to the teeth with the agency," he said, "but I'm not holding a gun at anyone's throat. I'm not staging a holdup. I just don't want to be squeezed out and disgraced. And I want my wife's jewels back."

In his earlier letter, written to a friend in Mason City, Iowa, his former home, Tofte said he had been "jokingly" asked at the White House early in the Kennedy years whether he wanted to be director of CIA. He replied, he said, that "the worst mistake any President of the U.S. could make would be to put a CIA professional in the top spot." A CIA professional, Helms, is now in the top spot.

"The same people who planned and executed that disastrous affair (Bay of Pigs) are still sitting in Langley in bigger and better jobs," he wrote. "I do not envy them those jobs. I just think that other men should be in them."